

Dayton, Oregon
Dec. 1st, 1971

Hi Vicki and Jim,

I'm a long time answering your nice letter! We enjoyed looking at the Russian Winter Festival brochure immensely and will be thinking about you two over there trudging around in the snow amid the twinkling lights of Moscow or whatever-I've been thinking of what we could send you for Christmas, or to take along on your trip -thought of sets of red flannel underwear, bright colored thermals or some such to keep you toasty but figured you'd not wear them-and can't afford a Russian sable coat to keep you warm-so-o-think we'll send money so you can buy something to take or else buy something over there that you'd like-What day do you leave? Dec. 21st seemed to be the only date on the brochure so I suppose that is it, eh?? What fun to anticipate the flight and then the sightseeing and plays, etc.!! You'll celebrate your anniversary on the trip, too, won't you-

Imlah's were so pleased to hear from you and Bud loved getting your card-I hadn't mentioned the trip to them as yet thinking maybe you wouldn't be able to get all the required details taken care of in time to go -Caroline called and chatted quite awhile and seemed to be real thrilled that you were taking the trip. Bud had his ear surgery yesterday morning but she stayed at her sister's last night so I didn't hear anything as to how it went but imagine all is well-Verlee Howard had a stay in the hospital recently too-she's home now, tho-she had an emergency appendectomy a week ago Saturday-usually only children and young people have such things-she's about my age so mayhap I'm younger than I thought!

Grandpa isn't gaining very fast-in fact, Frances thinks he's going backward in some ways-he doesn't want to see people or visit anymore and doesn't have any appetite and stays so weak-He's supposed to be up a lot and walking around outside even but doesn't feel like it-today he has a doctor's appointment and I do hope he'll not back out of this one! He wouldn't go last Friday-

We had a nice Thanksgiving day even though it was a bit small as to number of guests-Ken went Debbie's grandparents with the family, Craig and Marilyn were the only Conways to make it (Lori had a sore throat, having caught cold on a fossil digging expedition the day before and Ralph stayed home with her) and Dad had one of his days when ~~we~~

wouldn't think of making the effort to come in just for dinner so Francie came and ate with us and took dinner out to him -which he didn't eat! He wanted oyster stew instead- Anyway, having so few, we called Brian and he came in and ate with us even though he and Sarah were going to his uncle Don's in Lake Oswego for dinner as soon as Sarah got off work at 3:00-so we had a good time visiting and eating anyway- Sarah works at a McMinn, convalescent home (a new one) as sort of a practical nurse and has the promise of a better job at McMinn, Hospital the first of the year. So she plans to quit this job in time to go to Calif. for Christmas and then take the other job when she gets back-I hope it really does pan out that well for her-She and Bri are tickled to death to have the trailer house to themselves at last but I hope they can stick it out up here in rainy, cloudy Oregon for the whole winter-

How was your Thanksgiving Day? I remember you said that several couples of you were getting together for a potluck - I imagine you had a lot of fun-Jerry called that evening - from Louises- His ship had finished the training they had lined up for this cruise early so he had come in on Tuesday instead of the day after Thanksgiving and had driven up to Costa Mesa for dinner and was staying over night too, I think- He sounded great and asked about you folks-His voice almost sounded shocked when he learned about your trip-It is slightly unbelievable, at that! He's asked for 12 days leave at Christmas but isn't sure he'll get it or all of it-But I think he'll get some time off anyway-We'll surely miss you guys at holiday season and will be thinking about you-

I see that it's nearly noon and time for me to go home- but first I have some more work to do before the PM gets back from lunch so will sign off for this time-I'll send a check in a few days as I don't have one with me today and want to get this off in the mail-it's so seldom I get a letter written that I can't wait to mail it and get it on it's merry way-Ha Ha-Hope you are both fine -has it gotten wintry at all yet? When you wrote you mentioned skipping of for a game of TENNIS-

Much love,

Mom & Dad.

P.S.

Dad's coming along well on the Rogers house - all "roofed & walled" -